



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/614,772	07/12/2000	Masaaki Tanizaki	500.38695X00	2414

24956 7590 05/31/2006

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.  
1800 DIAGONAL ROAD  
SUITE 370  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

TRAN, QUOC A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 05/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/614,772

Applicant(s)

TANIZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Quoc A. Tran

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 July 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***DETAILED ACTION***

1. This action is responsive to Amendment filed 12/13/2005.
2. Claims 1-4, 6-21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 14 are amended and are independent claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

*The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.*

Claims 1 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding to dependent claims 1 and 14, that recites the amended limitation such as, “**first image as defined by the server and an object of a second image as defined by the application based on the server definition data... and first image as defined by the server and said object of a second image as defined by the application on a display**”, which are failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter; It is unclear what Applicant’s intended of the a second image as defines by the application based on the server definition data or based on based on the application on a display (it seem to contradicting between those amended limitations), thus for the examining purposes the Examiner reads as **a second image as defined by the application based on the server definition data.**

Clarification and/or correction are required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.*

5. **Claims 1-4 and 6-21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strasnick et al. US005528735A - filed 03/23/1993 (hereinafter Strasnick), in view of Kothuri et al US006381605B1 - filed 05/29/1999 (hereinafter Kothuri).

**In regard to independent claim 1, generating a relationship between an object of a first image as defined by the server and an object of a second image as defined by the application based on the server definition data, the application definition data, the object property structure data and thesaurus data (Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30), discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base,**

**also (Strasnick at col. 20, lines 25-30), discloses a method wherein a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data, utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application),**

Art Unit: 2176

Using the broadest interpretation, the Examiner reads **first image as defined by the server and an object of a second image as defined by the application based on the server definition data** would have been an obvious variant of a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data (i.e. second image), utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application (i.e. first image), to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

**graphically indicating the generated relationship between said object of first image as defined by the server and said object of a second image as defined by the application on a display** (Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30, discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base, also Strasnick at col. 20, lines 25-30, discloses a method wherein a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data, utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application),

**displaying the object property structure data of an object pointed to by indication means on the display** (Strasnick at col. 5, lines 20-65), discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape to include a meant of presenting

Art Unit: 2176

user interface/peripherals such as mouse, key board, display adapter with a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, cells 120 are displayed as 3D square pedestals representing directories in which the height or color of a pedestal represents the aggregate size of the files contained within the directory represented by the cell and also to represent the parent-child relationship between data objects appearing in display space),

**and modifying and deciding the relationship between the objects based on a confirmation operation input from the indication means** (Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30), discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base,

also (Strasnick at col. 20, lines 25-30), discloses a method wherein a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data, utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application),

Using the broadest interpretation, the Examiner reads **first image as defined by the server and an said object of a second image as defined by the application on a display** would have been an obvious variant of a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data (i.e. second image), utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the

Art Unit: 2176

required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application (i.e. first image) and displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape to include a meant of presenting user interface/peripherals such as mouse, key board, display adapter with a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory, to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Strasnick does not explicitly teach, **displaying object hierarchical structure data of the server, and object hierarchical structure data of the application, with the generated relationship**, however (Kothuri at col. 5, lines 20-45, discloses a system and method for indexing and storing multi-dimensional or multi-attribute data, wherein organizing object-relational database management system, such as Oracle Server. In particular, methods and apparatus are provided for indexing multi-dimensional data items in a hierarchical index, storing the index in a database, and performing various operations on the index and/or data items, which is read in the broadest reasonable interpretation as claimed, wherein object-relational database management system, such as Oracle Server provided for indexing multi-dimensional data items in a hierarchical index, storing the index in a database is suggested reasonably equivalent to object hierarchical structure data of the server...with the generated relationship as claimed),

**acquiring server object property structure data which corresponds to the server and application object property structure data which corresponds to the application**, however (Kothuri at col. 5, lines 20-45, discloses a system and method for indexing and storing multi-dimensional or multi-attribute data, wherein organizing object-relational database management system, such as Oracle Server. In particular, methods and apparatus are provided for indexing

Art Unit: 2176

multi-dimensional data items in a hierarchical index, storing the index in a database, and performing various operations on the index and/or data items and may be used to efficiently store, organize, manipulate and retrieve data for applications in the areas of geographical information systems (GIS), computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM), data warehousing, multi-media, etc. Various types of multi-dimensional data, such as geometrical, geographical, rectangular (e.g., elements of a CAD/CAM project), and data possessing multiple attributes may be point data or non-point data (e.g., spatial in nature), which is read in the broadest reasonable interpretation as claimed, wherein object-relational database management system, such as Oracle Server provided for indexing multi-dimensional data items and performing various operations on the index and/or data items and may be used to efficiently store, organize, manipulate and retrieve data for applications in the areas of geographical information systems (GIS) is suggested reasonably equivalent to object hierarchical structure data of the server...with the generated relationship as claimed).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the teaching of Bergman provides a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree, to include a means of indexing and storing multi-dimensional, organizing object-relational database management system of Kothuri. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to perform such a modification to provide a system that would prevented the lack of a unified of the multiple modalities/multiple fidelities nature of multimedia content, both spatial and temporal characteristics among multiple objects; and the



lack of a means for describing both streams and aggregations of multimedia objects (as taught by Kothuri at col. 1, lines 5-40).

**In regard to independent claim 14**, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as cited in claim 1 above, and is similarly rejected along the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claim 2**, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as cited in claim 1 above, and further view of the following and is similarly rejected along the same rationale, **the form of display is changed depending on the type of a parent/child relationship between objects** (Strasnick col. 4, lines 30-33, discloses lines between the cells. Connectors represent the contextual relationships between cells, for example, parents and children).

**In regard to dependent claim 3**, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as cited in claim 1 above, and further view of the following and is similarly rejected along the same rationale, **an object of the lowermost layer and an object of an intermediate layer are distinctively displayed** (Strasnick at col. 11, lines 43-45, discloses nodes which are laid out recursively for each level of a partial hierarchy beginning at the bottommost end level of the partial hierarchy).

**In regard to dependent claim 4**, displaying a relationship between the objects, a **similarity between the objects is displayed in a form reflected by types of lines or thickness of lines** (Strasnick at col. 5, lines 20-65, discloses a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, cells 120 are displayed as 3D square pedestals representing directories in which the height or color of a pedestal represents the aggregate size of the files contained within

the directory represented by the cell and also to represent the parent-child relationship between data objects appearing in display space).

**In regard to dependent claim 6**, relationship between the objects is displayed in order of a degree of certainty representing a height of a degree of association between the objects (Strasnick at col. 5, lines 20-65, discloses a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, cells 120 are displayed as 3D square pedestals representing directories in which the height or color of a pedestal represents the aggregate size of the files contained within the directory represented by the cell and also to represent the parent-child relationship between data objects appearing in display space).

**In regard to dependent claim 7**, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as cited in claim 1 above, and further view of the following and is similarly rejected along the same rationale, the object hierarchical structure and/or the relationship between objects are displayed with distinction for each view selected by a user (Strasnick at col. 5, lines 20-65, discloses a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, cells 120 are displayed as 3D square pedestals representing directories in which the height or color of a pedestal represents the aggregate size of the files contained within the directory represented by the cell and also to represent the parent-child relationship between data objects appearing in display space).

**In regard to dependent claims 8-13**, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as cited in claim 1 above, and are similarly rejected along the same rationale, and further view of the following.

**...displaying a list of the server definition and a list of the application definition data on the display and displaying a relationship between the object property structure data of the object pointed to by indication means** (Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30), discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base,

also (Strasnick at col. 5, lines 20-65), discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape to include a meant of presenting user interface/peripherals such as mouse, key board, display adapter with a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, cells 120 are displayed as 3D square pedestals representing directories in which the height or color of a pedestal represents the aggregate size of the files contained within the directory represented by the cell and also to represent the parent-child relationship between data objects appearing in display space),

also (Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30), discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base,

also (Strasnick at col. 20, lines 25-30), discloses a method wherein a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data, utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and

operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application).

**In regard to dependent claims 15-19**, are directed to a system for performing the method of claims 1, 8-13, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claim 20**, is directed to a system for performing the method of claim 4, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claim 21**, is directed to a system for performing the method of claim 7, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments filed 12/13/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The reason is set forth in the current Office Action cited above and further view of the following:

#### **Brief description of cited prior arts:**

**Strasnick** discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base, wherein a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data, utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data

Art Unit: 2176

components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application on a display (see Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30 and at col. 20, lines 25-30).

**Kothuri** discloses a method of organizing multi-dimensional/multi-attribute data in a DBMS, particularly a relational DBMS, in order to reap the advantages of sophisticated management controls (e.g., concurrent access to the data) without sacrificing *spatial relationships* (see Kothuri at col. 3, lines 5-10).

Response to Arguments:

Beginning on page 10 of the Remarks (hereinafter the remarks), Applicant argues the following issues, which are accordingly addressed below.

**Applicant's arguments, on pages 10-15 of the remarks that Strasnick in combination with Kothuri fails to teach generating a relationship between an object of a first image as defined by the server and an object of a second image as defined by the application based on the server definition data, the application definition data, the object property structure data and thesaurus data first image as defined by the server and an object of a second image as defined by the application based on the server definition data graphically indicating the generated relationship between said object of first image as defined by the server and said object of a second image as defined by the application on a display said displaying the object property structure data of an object pointed to by**

**indication means on the display and modifying and deciding the relationship between the objects based on a confirmation operation input from the indication means.**

The examiner respectfully disagrees. The examiner respectfully notes that Strasnick discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base, wherein a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data, utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application on a display (see Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30 and at col. 20, lines 25-30 also see the above rejection for more details) and

Kothuri discloses a method of organizing multi-dimensional/multi-attribute data in a DBMS, particularly a relational DBMS, in order to reap the advantages of sophisticated management controls (e.g., concurrent access to the data) without sacrificing *spatial relationships* (see Kothuri at col. 3, lines 5-10, also see the above rejection for more details).

Further more, the examiner respectfully notes that using the broadest interpretation, the the Examiner reads **first image as defined by the server and an said object of a second image as defined by the application on a display** would have been an obvious variant of a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data (i.e. second image), utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool

Art Unit: 2176

performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application (i.e. first image) and displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape to include a meant of presenting user interface/peripherals such as mouse, key board, display adapter with a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory, to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

**Applicant's arguments, on pages 16-18 of the remarks that Kothuri does not teach the deficiencies of Strasnick, as such "displaying object hierarchical structure data of the server, and object hierarchical structure data of the application, with the generated relationship and acquiring server object property structure data which corresponds to the server and application object property structure data which corresponds to the application".**

The examiner respectfully disagrees. The examiner respectfully notes that that Strasnick discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base, wherein a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data, utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application

on a display (see Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30 and at col. 20, lines 25-30 also see the above rejection for more details) and

Kothuri discloses a method of organizing multi-dimensional/multi-attribute data in a DBMS, particularly a relational DBMS, in order to reap the advantages of sophisticated management controls (e.g., concurrent access to the data) without sacrificing *spatial relationships* (see Kothuri at col. 3, lines 5-10, also see the above rejection for more details).

Further more, the examiner respectfully notes that using the broadest interpretation, the the Examiner reads **first image as defined by the server and an said object of a second image as defined by the application on a display** would have been an obvious variant of a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data (i.e. second image), utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application (i.e. first image) and displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape to include a meant of presenting user interface/peripherals such as mouse, key board, display adapter with a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory, to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Further more (Kothuri at col. 5, lines 20-45), discloses organizing object-relational database management system, such as Oracle Server that provides for indexing multi-dimensional data items in a hierarchical index, storing the index in a database, and performing various operations on the index and/or data items, and performing various operations on the index and/or data items and may be used to efficiently store, organize, manipulate and retrieve



data for applications in the areas of geographical information systems (GIS), computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM), data warehousing, multi-media, etc. Various types of multi-dimensional data, such as geometrical, geographical, rectangular (e.g., elements of a CAD/CAM project), and data possessing multiple attributes may be point data or non-point data (e.g., spatial in nature).

Therefor the Examiner respectfully maintains the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-21 for at least the reason cited above at this time.

### ***Conclusion***

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

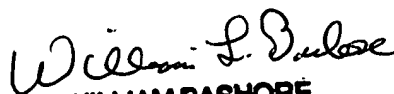
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4103. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Herndon R. Heather can be reached on (571) -272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

---

Quoc A. Tran  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2176  
May 27, 2006

  
WILLIAM BASHORE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
5/29/2006